

January 17, 2002

110 North 5th Street Montpelier, Idaho 83254 (208) 847-0585

Dear Thomas Fork Valley Landowners:

This letter is to inform you of an upcoming meeting for all the landowners in the Thomas Fork Valley watershed. This is a meeting you will not want to miss.

At last we could have the support of the Federal Government and 75% funding, or more available to go forward with a water project in the Thomas Fork watershed area. We could even have the support of the Forest Service. The project consists of re-assigning the water rights to all the landowners in the Thomas Fork Watershed area in Idaho, and putting a system in that uses gravity flow irrigation. This could be done by way of a pipeline or pipelines extending from the Wyoming border (Salt Canyon area) to the Border Junction area. It is possible that acres that could not be watered before might be able to receive some water. This has been done in other areas with fantastic results. We would ask that everyone discuss and review their own particular situations and come prepared to give the go ahead on the application for a Congressional line item for federal funding. You can decide to be a part of this water program or not, but once you decide that decision is permanent.

Landowners, we have talked about this for years. Now we have a chance to actually go forward with the program. We do no need 100% of the landowners to go ahead with this project. Let's not let this opportunity go by.

You and your partner are invited to attend a dinner at 7:00 p.m. on February 6, 2002 at the Geneva Ward Church. Afterwards, we will entertain any questions you have on the water project. You will then be expected to sign in or opt-out of the program.

If you have any questions please call Garth Boehme, Kirk Widmer, or any of the board members of the Bear Lake Soil & Water Conservation District.

Please RSVP to Kirk Widmer - 847-1031, or call the Bear Lake SWCD office at 847-0585 ext 101 by February 1s. We need to get a count of those planning to attend the dinner. If no one answers please leave a message.

Sincerely yours,

Kirk Widmer, Chairman

Bear Lake SWCD

Cc: Ron Davidson, Acting D.C.

The undersigned individuals are landowners in the Thomas Fork drainage. We have been informed about a proposed project on the Thomas Fork, sponsored by the Bear Lake Soil & Water Conservation District Board. It is our understanding that the Bear Lake SWCD is planning to apply for a Congressional Line Item to procure funding to install a pipeline in the Thomas Fork drainage.

We are willing to participate in a long-term project to improve delivery of irrigation water to our land. We understand that benefits to the fish and wildlife need to be addressed and that water quality is the main concern for the project.

We are committed to this project, and we are willing to put forth time and money to help put these practices on the ground. We are also aware that this petition is not a binding contract at this time.

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